City of Bellingham Candidates

Candidate responses were not edited by Whatcom Watch.
Candidates were asked to keep their answers to 100 words or less.
Candidates reviewed their answers in the layout before the paper was sent to the printer.

Background: The median home value in Bellingham is $367,300. Bellingham home values have gone up 10.5 percent over the past year. The median list price per square foot in Bellingham is $232 and the Bellingham Metro average is $211.

How do you propose to increase affordable housing?

Eric Bostrom
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electericbostrom@
gmail.com

Housing in Bellingham is increasingly unaffordable because demand exceeds supply. We need to zone more buildable land for affordable homes. We are not presently in compliance with the Growth Management Act which calls for affordable housing for you and your children.

First, more land needs to be annexed into the city with water and sewer available. Second, build a substantial number of affordable units in the proposed Waterfront District. Third, extend the number of ADUs allowed in neighborhoods, in cases where the neighbors are not adversely affected. Fourth, build smaller homes. Finally, reduce fees in relation to building.

Roxanne Murphy
(360) 647-7609
electroxanne@
gmail.com

Roxanne Murphy acknowledged receipt of the questions and indicated she would respond if she could find the time.

Gene Knutson
(360) 734-4686
gene_knutson@
msn.com

Gene Knutson acknowledged receipt of the questions. When his answers were not received by deadline a follow-up message was left on his answering machine.

Background: In 1998, Lake Whatcom was listed as an impaired water body for dissolved oxygen and phosphorus under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Nineteen years have elapsed since then and the water quality has further deteriorated as evidenced by the ongoing monitoring studies by the Institute of Watershed Studies at Western Washington University. According to the draft Total Maximum Daily Load study by Paul Pickert and Steve Hood of the Washington State Department of Ecology, a 74 percent reduction in developed watershed land would be required to return Lake Whatcom's phosphorus loadings to natural levels. Lake Whatcom water quality continues to slowly deteriorate.

What actions do you propose to stabilize and even increase the lake’s water quality?

Background: The Port of Bellingham Commission acquired the Georgia-Pacific West property at the 1/18/2005 meeting in exchange for the port's agreement to perform specific environmental remediation on the property. The anticipated cleanup costs were estimated at $20 million. The entire area was tidelands. The city and port signed an agreement for redeveloping the waterfront using the Waterfront District Sub-Area plan. Under the plan, the city agreed to provide infrastructure, parks and public access in the sub zone.

What do you propose to protect the city's investment in that development against the predicted sea level rise that could inundate that area and other low-lying city areas?

Bellingham City Council — At-Large

Bellingham City Council — Ward 2
Roxanne Murphy acknowledged receipt of the questions and indicated she would respond if she could find the time.

Quenby Peterson notified Whatcom Watch that she is not actively campaigning or completing questionnaires.